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**General and complete disarmament**

## Letter dated 15 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a decision by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning a statement from the Duma to the parliamentarians of States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, the National Assembly of Montenegro, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this statement and its annex circulated as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 97.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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## Annex to the letter dated 15 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Decision by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, sixth convocation, concerning the statement from the Duma to the parliamentarians of States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, the National Assembly of Montenegro, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hereby decides:

1. To adopt the statement from the State Duma to the parliamentarians of States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, the National Assembly of Montenegro, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (see enclosure).

2. To transmit this decision and the aforementioned statement to the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation, the United Nations, the Interparliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the European Parliament, the parliaments of the BRICS group of countries (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa), the parliaments of NATO member States, the National Assembly of Montenegro, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

3. To transmit this decision and the aforementioned statement to the Parliamentary Gazette for official publication.

4. This decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

S.E. **Naryshkin**
President of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Moscow, 22 June 2016

## Enclosure

## Statement from the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, sixth convocation, to the parliamentarians of States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, the National Assembly of Montenegro, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

The deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation invite their colleagues — the parliamentarians of States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, the National Assembly of Montenegro, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia — to intensify direct dialogue, through bilateral parliamentary contacts and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in connection with the deployment of United States missile defence systems in the territories of Eastern Europe and the policy of NATO expansion in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. This is a dangerous trend, essentially intended not for defence, but for unleashing a new Cold War.

In the course of such a dialogue, the deputies of the State Duma propose to jointly assess the possible consequences of these steps and to formulate proposals aimed at creating favourable conditions for the easing of international tensions.

The deputies of the State Duma express deep concern with regard to the deployment in Europe, particularly in the territories of Poland and Romania, of United States missile defence systems which, as dual-purpose systems, can be used for offensive purposes against the Russian Federation in a prompt global strike. Such actions, despite assertions that they strengthen European security, on the contrary, transform entire regions of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe into hostages of this policy, automatically exposing their territories to a retaliatory strike in the event of a military conflict.

The deputies of the State Duma are deeply concerned by the irresponsible actions and aggressive rhetoric of the leadership of individual NATO countries, and the blatant attempts to draw certain European States into NATO. The recent NATO decision to deploy its battalions in Poland and the Baltic States runs counter to the provisions of the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation, dated 27 May 1997. This Act stipulates that, in the current and foreseeable security environment, the Alliance will not carry out its collective defence and other missions by additional permanent stationing of substantial combat forces.

The deputies of the State Duma are seriously concerned by the policy of drawing Montenegro into NATO, which is dividing Montenegrin society and creating a high degree of social and political tension in the country. With a view to preventing the situation in Montenegro from developing extremely unfavourably,

the deputies of the State Duma urgently appeal to the parliamentarians of NATO member States to recognize the dangerous consequences for European security if the NATO Accession Protocol with Montenegro of 19 May 2016 is ratified, and to support the demand of Montenegro's major opposition forces for the holding of a national referendum that provides the citizens of that country with a free choice about their future.

The deputies of the State Duma welcome the initiative of a number of Balkan politicians for the establishment of a non-aligned Balkan union, comprising Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as neutral sovereign States, which would serve as a basis for the regional security architecture.

In a scenario where the NATO leadership is attempting to justify the reason for its existence by escalating confrontation with the Russian Federation, the deputies of the State Duma consider joint efforts with their colleagues abroad necessary in order to overcome dangerous tendencies that could lead to military and political confrontation.

S.E. **Naryshkin**
President of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Moscow, 22 June 2016